



COUNTRESS
VON BASSEWITZ

PRINCE OSCAR'S MORGANATIC MATCH



PRINCE
OSCAR



THE DUCHESS
OF FIFE



QUEEN
MARY

EMPEROR WILLIAM highly pleased the democratic element which is anxious he should make it possible for them to remain loyal to him, by his gracious consent to the morganatic marriage of Prince Oscar, his fifth son, and the sprightly Countess Ina von Bassewitz-Levitow, the empress' maid of honor.

Indeed the recent history of European royalty would lead to the belief that the mysterious theory of "equal birth" is rapidly breaking down. Since beautiful Princess Sophia of Saxe-Weimar killed herself because she was restrained from wedding a simple nobleman the disintegrating tendency has been still stronger.

Probably the greatest single factor in breaking down the walls of Hohenzollern tradition of exclusiveness is the curious position of Queen Mary of England.

She is the granddaughter of a German morganatic marriage. Her grandfather, son of Duke Alexander of Wurtemberg, renounced his royal rank to contract a morganatic union with the Polish Countess Claudine von Rhody. He was then created prince and duke of Teck.

So the Tecks do not belong to the "higher nobility" of Germany. This class includes only those who hold the title under the holy Roman empire. If Princess Mary of Teck had remained in Germany she could only have been the morganatic wife of even the youngest son of a reigning German family.

Indeed, her marriage with a member of a family which had once reigned, but long ago lost its possessions, would have been morganatic.

By this quaint theory of "equal birth," a marquis or even a duke may not have the "equal birth" of a plain count, supposing the count family is in the musty old list of the holy Roman empire and the duke and marquis are not.

The inconsistency of the "equal birth" theory was once admitted with much sang froid by Kaiser Friedrich, father of the present emperor, according to an anecdote widely quoted. A country gentleman of the lowest rank was discussing families with Friedrich and finally exclaimed: "I can't say I understand all these rules, but I claim my family is quite as good as the Hohenzollerns!" "Very true," quoth the kaiser, "but the Hohenzollerns have got on faster!"

Perhaps the better standing of "unequal marriages" is to be attributed to the almost uniform felicity of such matches. Two non-royal marriages in the English reigning family, that of Queen Victoria's daughter Louise to the late duke of Argyll and of King George's sister Louise to the duke of Fife, turned out most auspicious to the parties directly involved and at the same time did much to build up the present good feeling between the English rulers and their people.

In Germany Frederick William II, king of Prussia from 1744 to 1797, bought off his royal wife to agree to a separation so he could morganatically marry Fraulein von Voss, a maid of honor to his daughter, Princess Frederick. Saying it was simply a matter of state, the king's father-in-law, the old duke of Brunswick, actually arranged the separation of his royal daughter and the mor-

ganatic marriage with her rival. There was little romance about this transaction, but the king proved happier with his morganatic wife than he had been with his mate of "equal birth."

So eager was Prince Constantine of Hohenzollern to marry morganatically the daughter of Baron Schenk that he abdicated the governorship of the principality of Hohenzollern in 1850 in favor of the king of Prussia. The king graciously created the bride-to-be countess of Rothenberg, and "they lived happily ever after."

The same year Prince Adalbert of Prussia, for whom the present kaiser's third son is named, made a morganatic match with the famous German dancer, Theresa Elsser, who had been created baroness of Barnim.

Then there is the famous struggle of Duke George II of Saxe-Meiningen to secure recognition for his wife, who was Ellen Franz, a popular Shakespearean actress. She was the daughter of an Englishwoman and a Naumburg schoolmaster. On their wedding day in 1875 or immediately thereafter, every one of the court dignitaries and all the ministers of state resigned. All sorts of downright insults were heaped upon



THE DUKE
OF ARGYLL

the heads of the talented woman until her tormentors received the well-deserved title, "souls of lackeys." The colonel of a Prussian regiment stationed in Meiningen forbade his officers to greet the wife of the duke (now a baroness) when she passed them. The Hohenzollerns ignored her.

By a curious coincidence on the day when his son publicly announced his coming morganatic marriage the kaiser for the first time sent a message of friendly greeting to the wife of his "cousin of Saxe-Meiningen," who that day attained her seventy-fifth birthday.

But while the Bassewitzes never have had the privilege of "equal birth" with royalty, they have held the honor of knighthood as far back as they can be traced. It is to be noted that the Bassewitzes were knights in the days when the ancestors of the Princess Fugger was a master weaver in Augsburg. Yet the Fuggers now have the privilege of "ebenbürtigkeit!"

The countess captivated the hearts of all Germans who have met her, as well as the members of the royal family, by her sparkling wit and by her excellent singing voice.

"After Wilhelm heard her sing he could not resist her," is the saying with regard to the removal of the kaiser's opposition. She is not strikingly beautiful, but her pleasing appearance has made her a brilliant star in the stodgy court of the German emperors. All the other women attached to the emperors' service have been in her service since the early days of her marriage and either are, or are old enough to be grandmothers.

The countess' best friend in her love affair has been the Crown Princess Cecilie, whose brother is the grand duke of Mecklenburg, of which the countess' father is minister of state. Coming from the same place to Berlin, and with the same vivacity, good looks and pleasure in pretty clothes and piquant society, they naturally formed an alliance against the stiff and conventional surroundings.

The day after the marriage of Prince Oscar and Countess Ina the royal bridegroom will confer a settlement upon his wife. This is the "morganatic" (morning gift), from which the term "morganatic" comes.

The marriage ceremony differs from the usual custom in that the bride joins her right hand to the bridegroom's left hand (a token of their unequal birth) and for this she cannot inherit the estates of her husband or receive his royal name.

Hence, the day after the marriage he bestows a new title upon her, according to the arrangements of the state, and a financial settlement.

This morganatic marriage is considered as founding an entirely new family. The kaiser will grant the family a new name and Prince Oscar will be paid a lump sum instead of his princely allowance.

Morganatic marriages have from time to time been attacked as equivalent to concubinage.

This is a mistake, for the whole system of morganatic marriages has been built up by the Protestant church to preserve the purity of the marriage relation and at the same time preserve the sanctity of royalty.

The royal bridegroom cannot marry again in the lifetime of his morganatic wife unless she is regularly divorced.

The children take the title and rank of the mother, but they invariably obtain high office and rich emoluments from the royal family when they are grown and, as in the case of the Tecks, frequently marry into royalty.

AT THE CONCERT.

"Mother, why do they play some of the music so low and the other so loud?" "So that the people who are hard of hearing can get their money's worth."

WHERE EMERALDS COME FROM

Where do they come from—those flashing stones of pure pellucid green that often form the central setting of beauty's choicest gems? Diamonds form but satellites when that rarest of jewels, a perfect emerald, flashes its fire or lends its sheen to the jewel-encrusted crown of royalty. Its birth is hidden in the mystery of nature's alchemy, but its beauty and charm have been recognized from the very dawn of history.

Emeralds flashed on the shield of Aaron; the Ptolemies of Egypt treasured them, and their lapidaries knew the art of engraving on their hard surfaces the mystic symbols of their ancient faith; the Theban tombs revealed choice emeralds among their long-buried treasures, while Herculaneum and Pompeii have added their quota to the greed of modern excavators. Nero, that half-mad monster who once ruled the destinies of Rome, used an enormous emerald for a monocle, and in the filmy fabric of the gowns of Cleopatra emeralds shone in verdant luster.

Mt. Zabarah, in Upper Egypt, is said to have been the source of many of these ancient gems, but centuries have passed since these prolific mines were exhausted, and modern jewelers must now depend upon the western hemisphere for their supply.

In the spolia Plinio sent to Spain were found the first fine specimens of American emeralds, and thus was revealed another source of the manifold wealth of the new world. Perhaps the most valuable single emerald found in modern times is the one in that famous collection of gems owned by the duke of Devonshire.

It is said to be a perfect hexagonal crystal, weighing eight ounces and 18 pennyweights, and two inches long. It came from the mines of Colombia, and it is this South American republic

that furnishes the greatest supply of fine emeralds known to the world today.

Not that Colombia is the only country that has emerald mines. Ecuador and Peru have contributed their share to the world's supply, and in the former country the city of Esmeraldas (Spanish for emeralds) takes its name from the precious stones found in the vicinity. Among the Aztec treasures of Mexico were found emeralds as fine as those of the Peruvian Incas, and it is reported that Cortez was offered 40,000 ducats for one of the gems he gathered from the hoard of Montezuma.

In some areas of the United States limited quantities of the precious stones are found, but the gems of greatest beauty and value are to be had from the Muzo and Cosquez deposits near Bogota, the capital of Colombia.

ENTERPRISING.

"You want my consent to marry my daughter?" said Mr. Cumrox.

"I do," replied the young man.

"But my daughter says she wouldn't think of marrying you."

"Still your consent would be a good recommendation for me with some other family."

NO CHEAP GIRL.

"I'll bring you a box of candy the next time I call," he said.

"But there are so many kinds of candy," replied the sweet young thing.

"What kind would you like?" "The dollar kind."

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IN NO POSITION TO PREACH

Stranger Lost the Confidence of Truthful Fisherman When He Made His Inquiry.

Representative Frank Clark, Representative Howard of Georgia, and Superintendent George W. Hess of the botanic gardens, were having a friendly argument at Washington.

"Howard," said Clark, banteringly, "I just want to illustrate to you in a story how little you know about this. There is in my district in Florida an attractive village named Callahan."

"One day a stranger walking along a road in the country near a creek saw a youth fishing."

"'Young man,' said the ministerial-looking individual, 'can you tell me the way to Callahan?'"

"'Yes,' replied the boy, 'take the first road to your right.'"

"Instead of proceeding on his journey, the stranger gazed intently at the boy a few moments and said: 'My young friend, don't you know you are wasting your time in a way that is dreadful to contemplate? You are fishing, just fishing, when you ought to be a studyin' of books to prepare yourself for life's struggle. My boy, you're sure on the road to perdition.'"

"'Road to perdition?' replied the indignant youth. 'What in blazes do you know about roads? You don't even know the road to Callahan.'"

Outspoken.

Mrs. Smith's four sons made the life of her old colored servant a burden. One day Uncle Andy was busy in the garden hoeing corn, and for half an hour Tom, the most mischievous of the quartet, had amused himself throwing clods of dirt at him. At last Andy threw down his hoe and stamped indignantly down to the house.

"'Miss Ella,' he said, to the little culprit's mother, 'Ah jes' has to tell you dat dat boy Tawm am de meanest chile yu got—an Ah tells you to y' face and tells you behine yo' back!'"

Snakes Got His Roll.

"I lost \$325 trying to kill rattlesnakes, and now I am going to walk back to my home in Brooklyn," explained a man about forty-five years old, who said he is Ezra Sellen.

Sellen said he started for a walk from his boarding place, encountered a lot of rattlesnakes, killed some, fed from the others, waded a stream, and then missed his roll of bills. He said he had just money enough left to ride to this city and took the state road out of town.—Middletown (N. Y.) Dispatch to New York World.

Honest.

Dyer—What do you think has been most influential in shaping your career?

Ryer—Work—Judge.

Works itself.

"How do you suppose this craze for motors comes to possess people?"

"I guess it's automatic."

PRIZE FOOD.

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A Nebr. woman has outlined the prize food in a few words, and that from personal experience. She writes:

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"We sometimes tried other advertised breakfast foods but we invariably returned to Grape-Nuts as the most palatable, economical and nourishing of all."

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"After using Grape-Nuts a short time I began to improve and all these ailments have disappeared and now I am a well woman. My two children have been almost raised on Grape-Nuts, which they eat three times a day."

"They are pictures of health and have never had the least symptom of stomach trouble, even through the most severe sieges of whooping cough they could retain Grape-Nuts when all else failed."

"Grape-Nuts food has saved doctor bills, and has been, therefore, a most economical food for us."

Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich. Read "The Road to Wellville," in pkgs. "There's a Reason."

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